

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Birding January - February 2024

Fort Flagler Campground and Spit **Saturday, January 6, 2024, 9 AM - 11AM** *(if weather is survivable)*

Come bird in the wintry elements of the open area of beach near the Fort Flagler Campground. Bring a scope if you have one, and binoculars and lots of warm clothing. Real rain cancels. Please meet at 9 AM near the concessions building. Hopefully we will see sandpipers, plover, turnstone, Long-tailed Duck, grebe, crows and a Snow Bunting (highly unlikely, kind of kidding). Limit of 12 people. *Please contact Monica Fletcher: monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.*

Birding at Oak Bay County Park **Friday, January 12, 2024, 9 AM - 11 AM**

Meet at Oak Bay County Park. Take Oak Bay Road east, look for the orange sign on the left to Jefferson County Parks. Turn left on Portage Way (follow the arrow to the left) and go to the lower campground. (Map https://jeffersoncountywa.myrec.com/forms/6268_lower_oak_bay_map_6.21.2023.pdf) There we will scan Oak Bay and wetlands for ducks, geese, oystercatchers and other wintering seabirds as well as walk the adjacent road searching for resident birds such as kinglets, chickadees, and woodpeckers. Expect to walk about 2 miles. Bring a scope if you have one, as we'll use them for scanning Oak Bay. Bring binoculars, water, warm clothing, and be prepared for rain. Trip Leader will go no matter what the weather. *Sign up with Trip Leader Jackie Canterbury by text to 307-763-1953.*

Gull Identification Workshop at Point Hudson **Thursday, January 18, 2024, 2 PM - 3:30 PM**

Steve Hampton will lead a Gull Identification workshop at Point Hudson. There will be a remarkably low outgoing tide this afternoon (for winter). Hopefully, the weather and gulls will cooperate and line up on the spit. If not, there will be other birds. Bring a wind shell and good gloves, and a scope if you have one. *RSVP to stevechampton@gmail.com (in case we have to cancel due to really bad weather). (Note - Steve will repeat this trip on February 3.)*

Third Saturday at Anderson Lake State Park **Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9 AM - 12 PM**

Meet at 9 AM at the parking area straight down the dirt road just beyond the meadows. Discover Pass required for parking. *You must contact leader Beverly*

McNeil to register: bevybirds53@gmail.com. The group size is limited to 5. If the weather is bad we may cancel. Bring binoculars and water, if desired. Distance is 1.5 miles and time of outing is usually 3 to 4 hours. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B, Anderson Lake State Park. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for changeable weather. Please avoid wearing bright clothing.

Gull Identification Workshop at Point Hudson **Saturday, February 3, 2024, 2 PM - 3:30 PM**

Steve Hampton will lead a Gull Identification workshop at Point Hudson. There will be a remarkably low outgoing tide this afternoon (for winter). Hopefully, the weather and gulls will cooperate and line up on the spit. If not, there will be other birds. Bring a wind shell and good gloves, and a scope if you have one. *RSVP to stevechampton@gmail.com (in case we have to cancel due to really bad weather).*

Fort Worden Surf and Turf **Saturday, February 10, 2024, 9 AM - 11 AM**

Come bird the beautiful beach strip from the Parade Grounds to the Lighthouse. We will meet at the Commons Parking lot in Fort Worden. We will walk from there to the Marine Science Center's pier, and then veer into the campground area and out to Point Wilson and back. This walk will focus on local winter seabirds and resident denizens. Bad bird weather (high winds/real rain) cancels. Limit of 10 people. *Contact Monica Fletcher: monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.*

Third Saturday at Anderson Lake State Park **Saturday, February 17, 2024, 9 AM - 12 PM**

Meet at 9 AM at the parking area straight down the dirt road just beyond the meadows. Discover Pass required for parking. *You must contact leader Beverly McNeil to register: bevybirds53@gmail.com. The group size is limited to 5. If the weather is bad we may cancel. Bring binoculars and water, if desired. Distance is 1.5 miles and time of outing is usually 3 to 4 hours. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B, Anderson Lake State Park. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for changeable weather. Please avoid wearing bright clothing.*

Betty Renkor
Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair

AAS Community Program
Thursday, February 15, 2024, 7:30pm
Port Townsend Community Center
Tyler & Lawrence in Uptown

Birds and Seals - an Antarctic Adventure
(or: Barry and Steve's Excellent Adventure...)

AAS members Barry McKenzie and Steve Hampton traveled to South Georgia and Antarctica in October 2023. In this talk, they will describe their adventure, share images and videos, as well as discuss Avian Influenza that has now arrived in the extreme southern latitudes. They'll share practical insights for those that would like to make a similar trip someday (and who wouldn't?).

Rosemary Sikes
Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair



© Steve Hampton



© Steve Hampton



© Steve Hampton

Photos: clockwise from top left: - Intrepid birders Barry McKenzie (left) and Steve Hampton (right) somewhere in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica; Storm Petrel; Gentoo Penguin and Waddell Seal pup; Chinstrap Penguins practicing their vocalizations, referred to variously as 'a barbaric yawp' and 'earsplitting'.

Feather Forecast January-February 2024

Midwinter- the days are getting longer, the weather is cold and damp, and the birding is pretty fabulous. The Birds of Winter are here. And they are beautiful. So bundle up, grab your binoculars and head out.

You can head to Points Wilson and Hudson and the Fort Flagler beach to look for Brants. Brant are small geese that feed on eelgrass and other aquatic vegetation when the tide is lower. Sometimes there are 100 or more at one of those locations. These striking geese have black heads and necks with a white necklace, brown back and white-brown on their flanks with a white tail.

Areas such as Kah Tai Lagoon, Chinese Gardens Pond, Oak Bay, and other areas host Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons, Northern Pintails and other ducks. The Shovelers' large bills stand out, as does the male's green head, white chest and rust-colored sides. Watch for groups of Shovelers to swim in circles while feeding to bring vegetation and invertebrates to the surface. The male Wigeons sport a white cap and a green stripe behind the eye, while females are equally attractive with a rusty brown body, dark area around the eye and patterned back. The curving white mark coming from the neck to the brown head, gray-blue bill and long tail distinguish the male Pintail.

For impressive birds dressed in white, look for the large Trumpeter Swans (80-inch wingspan) and smaller Tundra Swans (66-inch wingspan). There are often a few in the farm fields off Highway 19 and Center Valley Road. These swans and Snow Geese often number in the thousands in the Skagit Valley in winter, where they feed in the agricultural fields.

Colder, snowy weather often seems to bring out the colorful Varied Thrush, but they are making themselves visible despite lack of snow. Both males and females have orange-colored breasts, eyebrows and wing bars, while males are darker gray elsewhere and females are more brownish. Birders find these robin-sized birds in their own yards and along neighborhood streets where they sit in trees and shrubs or forage on the ground.

Of course, there are many more - the constantly moving Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, busy Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Ruddy Ducks, for example, to delight us and take our minds off the winter gray.

Betty Renkor

Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair



© Hillary Smith



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photos top: Tundra Swan (middle) among Trumpeter Swans and Northern Pintails, Short Farm, CBC, December 2023; bottom: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Port Townsend, December 2023.

AAS Workparties
January & February 2024
Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park
Sunday, January 7, 2024, 9AM - noon

Look for the white pickup truck near the Chase Bank bench. Park at the Chase Bank parking lot on the corner of Kearney and HWY 20. We hope to plant some native plants or pull invasives (i.e., Scot's broom, spurge laurel, holly, ivy), or pick up garbage if you prefer. Bring a shovel, work gloves and a bucket for dirt if you have them. We will provide extra shovels, buckets, garbage grabbers, garbage sacks, Scot's broom pullers, and refreshments.



© Andrew Palmer

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park
Sunday, February 4, 2024, 9AM - noon

Look for the white pickup truck east of the little pond. Park at the Kah Tai parking lot across 12th St from Henery Hardware. We hope to pull invasives (i.e., Scot's broom, Spurge Laurel, holly, ivy), or pick up garbage if you prefer. Bring work gloves and a bucket for garbage if you have them. We will provide garbage grabbers, garbage sacks, extra buckets, Scot's broom pullers, and refreshments.



© Andrew Palmer

Contact ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307 for more information about either workparty.

Rosemary Sikes

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

Photos: top - Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park workparty, 25 November 2023
 bottom: Salish Coast Elementary School workparty, 3 December 2023.

AAS Membership Form 2024
<https://admiraltyaudubon.org>

name _____ date _____

mailing address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

email address _____ phone number _____

Would you prefer your newsletter by email? paper copy? amount enclosed \$ _____

Send \$20 annual membership to: **Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368**
or pay online at the 'Join' link via PayPal or credit card

Membership includes 6 issues of our newsletter per year and the right to vote in chapter elections. Chapter programs and field trips are free to the public. We always welcome donations! Dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Admiralty Audubon is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Nature Now Podcasts - Christmas Bird Count

Steve Hampton of Admiralty Audubon talks to Jackie Canterbury, host of KPTZ'S Nature Now, about the oldest citizen science program of its kind, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count or CBC. Hampton discusses the importance of CBC data for trend information on birds and climate. He describes the northward shifts of certain species in a warming climate. Go to KPTZ'S Nature Now Podcast: <https://kptz.org/podcasts/nature-now/>, to Program #651 or use your smart phone to access it on Apple Podcasts.



Count Records

- Most species: 125
- Most birds: 24,660
- Most party-hrs: 140+
- Most participants: 76

Graphic and data courtesy Steve Hampton. Look for a more comprehensive summary of our Christmas Bird Count results in our next newsletter.

Birding 101 Class

February 20 & 22, 2024

Barry McKenzie will teach this free course for novice birders. The course is designed to provide beginners the background to grow as a birder. Two 1-hour evening classes February 20 and February 22, 2024, will cover:

A) tools...binoculars, gear, field guides, on-line resources and

B) how to go about identifying birds. A 3-hr field trip on Saturday, Feb 24 will put the new skills to use. Contact Barry at: barrymckenzie52@icloud.com.



© Wendy Feltham

Red-throated Loon, Port Townsend, December 2023.

BIRDING 101

20 and 22 February 2024, 7-8pm

Learn the basics to get started in birding!

- binoculars
- field guides
- on-line resources
- how to identify birds
- where to go see birds

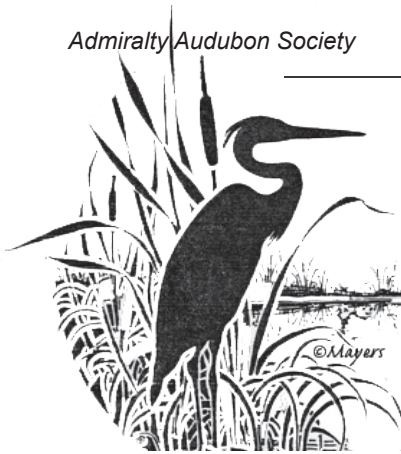
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence & Tyler, Uptown

Presented by Admiralty Audubon

No Charge! No Fee!

Contact: barrymckenzie52@icloud.com





Admiralty Pippings

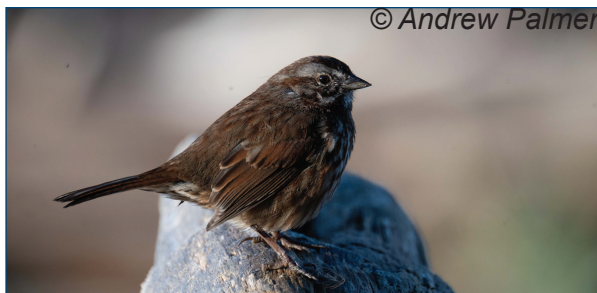
Admiralty Audubon Society of East Jefferson County
PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



Mythical American Dipper, Quinault, December 2023

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rick Jahnke	360-531-3417	rjahnke@att.net
Vice President: Lisa Saban	206-399-6095	lbsaban8@gmail.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes	360-385-0307	b1rdbrush@gmail.com
Treasurer: Rick Jahnke (interim)	360-531-3417	rjahnke@att.net
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Programs: Rosemary Sikes	360-385-0307	ptrose53@gmail.com
Education: Juliet Rhodes	--	win10ski2019@gmail.com
& Monica Fletcher	360-379-3136	monicaflet@gmail.com
Conservation & CBC: Steve Hampton	530-400-8417	stevechampton@gmail.com
Membership: Clara Mason	360-385-3594	aacmason@olypen.com
Newsletter: Debbie Jahnke	360-531-3415	admiraudub@gmail.com
Member At Large - PI Rep: Craig Wester	360-385-5390	craigwester@olympus.net
Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	admiraltyaudubon@gmail.com
Website: https://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon



photos: Merlin says left is a Song Sparrow; right is a Golden-crowned Sparrow, Port Townsend, Fall 2023. Any challengers to Merlin?

